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15 March 1960

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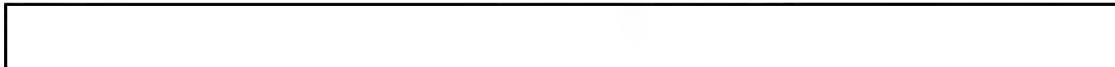
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

15 March 1960

DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

USSR-Argentina: Soviet First Deputy Premier Mikoyan will follow up his recent visits to Mexico and Cuba with a trip to Argentina for its national independence day celebration on 25 May, [redacted]

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[redacted] The USSR may also want to participate in the commercial exposition planned on this occasion. [redacted]

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*USSR: Khrushchev's illness is apparently genuine. Foreign Minister Gromyko has informed a Western ambassador that Khrushchev was indisposed and a Soviet doctor has told another member of the diplomatic corps that Khrushchev has had severe grippie. [redacted]

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

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Indonesia-USSR: A Sukarno-Khrushchev agreement, apparently in addition to the \$250,000,000 credit arrangement initialed during Khrushchev's recent visit, calls for the USSR to supply Indonesia with one cruiser and three or four submarines, according to the Indonesian naval intelligence chief. [redacted] Indonesian Navy officials say they wish to accept from the USSR only that support which cannot be obtained from the United States. Accordingly, the navy will accept only equipment from the USSR, and will look to the United States for training and for help in building a Sumatran naval base. [redacted]

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Laos: [An army security sweep, the most ambitious in a series undertaken throughout the country since January, is getting under way in southern Laos. These sweeps are designed to improve security conditions for the 24 April elections. The Communist insurgents, however, will probably retain a substantial capability for intimidating voters in the countryside.] [redacted]

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Mikoyan Plans to Visit Argentina in May

Soviet First Deputy Premier Mikoyan, following his recent trips to Mexico and Cuba, now plans to visit Argentina in connection with its independence celebrations on 25 May,

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Argentina is reportedly planning an extensive commercial exposition to coincide with the holiday. There is no evidence thus far that the Argentine Government has invited a Soviet representative to the celebrations, but Mikoyan may plan to open a Soviet exhibit at the exposition, as he did during his Mexican trip.

The Soviet leaders are apparently convinced that such high-level visits are an effective means of impressing the Latin Americans with Soviet technical progress and the advantages of cooperation with the USSR at least in the economic field. If he goes, Mikoyan will attempt to discuss with Argentine officials ways of utilizing the unused \$68,000,000 of the \$100,000,-000 Soviet credit extended to the Frondizi government in 1958. He may attempt to exploit Argentina's difficult economic position with new offers of trade and aid, as Khrushchev did recently in Indonesia.

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

USSR to Give Indonesia Naval Assistance

Under an agreement reached between President Sukarno and Premier Khrushchev during the latter's visit to Indonesia and apparently separate from the \$250,000,000 economic credit agreement, the Indonesian Navy will receive a cruiser, four submarines, a submarine rescue vessel, necessary base support for the subs, and merchant ship support. Details are being worked out with a Soviet naval mission which arrived in Indonesia in mid-February immediately prior to Khrushchev's visit. According to the Indonesian Navy intelligence chief, who has kept the American naval attaché generally informed on the new arrangements, the agreement will not include training within the bloc but will cover necessary on-the-job instruction.

[The intelligence chief stated that the Indonesian Navy staff wants to accept from the USSR only that support which the US cannot or will not provide. Accordingly, the navy will accept only equipment from the USSR, and will look to the United States for training and for assistance in building a naval base in Sumatra. In 1958 and 1959, however, at least 1,500 navy trainees are estimated to have been sent to the bloc.]

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Navy sources believe the ships will be delivered in 1961. These deliveries will constitute the first substantial military assistance arranged directly with the Soviet Union. Previous bloc military purchases, contracted largely with Poland and Czechoslovakia, include two submarines, four destroyers, eight subchasers, and 200 aircraft.

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Laotian Army Security Sweep in Southern Laos

[A Laotian Army security sweep which will ultimately involve 5,000 troops began on 7 March in Laos' three southernmost provinces. This operation, which will last several weeks, is the most ambitious of a number which have been undertaken throughout the country since January in preparation for the National Assembly elections on 24 April. The several columns of troops participating in the operation will cover towns, villages, routes of communication, and areas of known or suspected Communist insurgent activity.]

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[Laotian officials hope that the operation, in addition to making the area more secure for the elections, will strengthen the government's control over an area where Communists have been particularly strong. Army, police, and civil administrative elements will be permanently stationed in the numerous subdistricts where such units have not yet been assigned. One of the central government's fundamental problems in its struggle with the Communists has been its inability to make its presence felt in the thousands of isolated villages throughout the country. Vientiane's tentative efforts to rectify this weakness were interrupted when the Communist rebellion began last summer.]

[The army is reportedly coordinating its cleanup campaign with the South Vietnamese Army, which is engaged in operations against Vietnamese Communist guerrillas on the other side of the border. The arrangements for cooperation, which are said to include the right of hot pursuit, could add further fuel to Hanoi's propaganda attacks on the governments in Vientiane and Saigon.]

[The operation probably will improve security conditions in the towns and larger villages. No appreciable inroads on insurgent hard-core strength are likely to be made, however, since the Communists will probably have ample time to fade into the countryside, where they will retain a substantial capability for limiting the vote in the coming elections or of delivering it to favored leftist candidates.]

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